(Base 1981-82=100)

Commodity	17.8.96(P)	20.7.96	25.5.96	2.3.96	19.8.95
Maida	281.9	277.5	262.2	256.9	248.7
Suji (Rawa)	259.9	263.6	238.5	234.4	222.1
Atta	342.7	328.3	304.2	315.3	300.8

P—Provisional

(d) and (e) The Govt. has reviewed the procedure of open sale and revised guidelines have been issued on 26.8.96. They include allotment by a three-member committee at the FCI region level on proper identification of the intending purchasers. The quantity to be sold to one purchaser in a month has also been reduced.

Subsidies given on Foodgrains

3366. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidies proposed to be given on foodgrains to be distributed to the targeted groups under Public Distribution System;

(b) whether subsidies were given in the past in a similar way;

(c) if not, the purpose of giving the subsidies now;

(d) what would be the implication of this decision on national exchequer as well as state exchequer in 1996-97; and

(e) the Central assistance proposal to be sanctioned to the States to bear the burden of the subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Central Government allocates foodgrains to States/UTs for PDS at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are subsidised. The foodgrains for RPDS are allocated at especially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50 per quintal less than the Central Issue Prices for normal PDS areas. Central Government does not give further subsidies to States/UTs directly on foodgrains supplied through PDS/RPDS. The States/UTs are free to provide additional subsidies on their own. A proposal to streamline PDS with its focus on the population below the poverty line and issue foodgrains at specially subsidised rates is under consideration and details are being worked out.

Inadequate Staff in the Welfare Department

3367. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inadequate staff in the Welfare Department for the proper implementation of the various schemes and programmes for the welfare of the minorities;

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALAWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir. The implementation of schemes and programmes is done by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and various other agencies. Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, only issues sanctions and monitors schemes/programmes for which there is a separate Division equipped with adequate staff and officers.